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**The Opportunity Schools
and The Founder Wil Lou Gray**

by
George M. Smith

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The Opportunity Schools and The Founder Wil Lou Gray

By

George M. Smith
Director of Development

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THE WORK OF WIL LOU GRAY

1883-1984

The late Dr. Wil Lou Gray was born on August 29, 1883 in Laurens, South Carolina. She was the daughter of William Lafayette Gray and Sarah Lou Dial. She graduated from Laurens High School in 1899, and Columbia College, Columbia, SC in 1903.



Wil Lou Gray
1903 Columbia College Graduate



Wil Lou Gray
1960

She did post graduate work at Vanderbilt in 1905 and in 1910 she received her M.A. degree from Columbia University in New York. Miss Gray enjoyed traveling and while in Lacerne, Switzerland in 1913 she saw a teacher arrive with his school of over 100 boys to visit the wonderful statue, "The Lion of Lucerne." Europe is where Wil Lou Gray became interested in educational sightseeing for teachers and pupils. This would later lead to the famous pilgrimages she had for her pupils. These pilgrimages were both in and out of state. She would travel with her pupils to Columbia, Charleston, New York and Washington, D.C.



Negro pupils from The Darlington Adult School at the Battery in Charleston, S.C.



Dr. Gray with her pilgrimage at the Whitehouse, May 30, 1930. Note President Herbert Hoover in the center photograph with Dr. Gray.



Wil Lou Gray off on another pilgrimage. .

Her life's journey started back in 1903 serving as the only teacher at Jones School, near Ware Shoals, Greenwood County, South Carolina. Her experiences as a "one teacher school" teacher continued at Wallace Lodge in Laurens County.

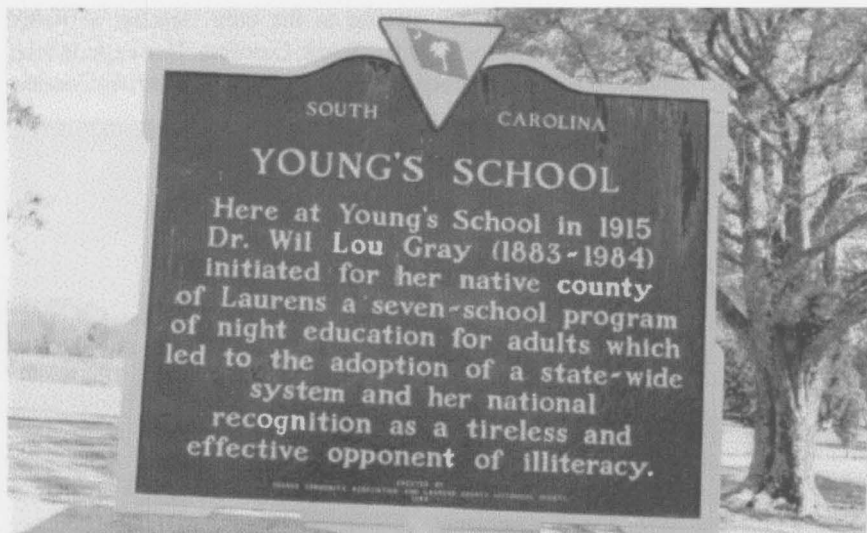


Wallace Lodge in Laurens County, S.C.

She left rural teaching because the lack of interest from the community and became an English teacher at Martha Washington College 1907 and 1908. Dr. Gray returned to the rural setting the following year as Principal of Youngs School. Here she saw a need for the illiterate adults and thus became interested in teaching adults to read and write. Her effort to assist adults to read and write further developed her interest in adult literacy. In 1912 Wil Lou Gray became the Supervisor of Rural Schools in Laurens County. In 1914 she organized the first night school in South Carolina. Dr. Gray also established a seven school program at Youngs School for night education that received national recognition. Wallace



Youngs School in Laurens County, S.C.



Historical marker at Youngs School.

Lodge and Youngs School were two of these seven schools. Both were one teacher schools. She organized rural night schools, published a county school journal, presented historical pageants at county fairs and developed travel courses and a county wide 7th grade education. In 1917, Dr. Gray resigned her position to become Supervisor of Rural Schools in Montgomery County, Maryland. She then returned to South Carolina in 1918 to become the Executive Secretary for the South Carolina Illiteracy Commission. In this position Wil Lou Gray



1918 South Carolina Illiteracy Commission

worked with every county and school district in the state to establish rural schools. Then she worked with the rural schools to establish local county adult schools. These adult schools reached out to all people, both black and white. Through this Commission and the influence of its work, the South Carolina General Assembly established a Department of Adult Education within the State Department of Education. She then became the first Adult Education Director for South Carolina. In 1919, Dr. Gray became the State Supervisor of Night Schools, later named Adult Education Supervisor, in a period when many different types

of schools were organized. It marked the beginning of the South Carolina Opportunity Schools. Her purpose was to conduct an experiment in the field of adult education. Dr. Gray's work was influenced by the work of Kentucky adult educator, Ms. Cora Wilson Stewart, author of, *Moonlight Schools, For the Emancipation of Adult Illiterates*. Ms. Cora Wilson Stewart was the Chairperson for the Illiteracy Commission, National Education Association; Chairperson, Illiteracy Committees: National Council of Education and General Federation of Women's Clubs.^{1,2}

The Opportunity School was the first of its kind in the United States and was most attractive because it was considered a vacation boarding school in its early years. For the first twenty-five years no permanent home existed for the Opportunity School, so the school was held on various college campuses during late summer. These schools were commonly called Lay-By-Schools, the period when cultivation of crops ceased till the harvesting of crops began. One of the greatest impacts the early Opportunity Schools had was the chance for these undereducated adults to enjoy college life with a curriculum simplified to meet their academic needs. Entire families would attend the Opportunity Schools in South Carolina or have all the children of one home go to the Opportunity School. One such family was the four Stringfield sisters from Bath, S.C. The below photograph was taken at Clemson Opportunity School. From left to right is Laura S. Barkley, Hazel Stringfield, Frances S. Willard and Wilhelmina S. Holland. All four sisters were loyal and active with the Opportunity Schools throughout their lives.



Stringfield Sisters from Bath, SC

Wil Lou Gray's work recognized her as one of the pioneering educators in the field of Adult Education. In 1923, Dr. Wil Lou Gray launched, "Write Your Name Campaigns" in South Carolina. This was a campaign designed to have every illiterate adult in the state write their name. Dr. Gray wrote her own books when she realized there were no books to help the adult reader learn. One such book she authored was *Elementary Studies in Civics, For Pupils in South Carolina*.³

Wil Lou Gray loved people. Her compassion was a love that beget love from the most remote relative to the thousands with whom she came in contact professionally. Everybody she knew depended upon her to smooth out difficulties and set things right. Regardless of wealth, prominence, age, station or color, humanity was her passion and democracy was her creed. She spent her life in trying to effect the realization of her belief in equal opportunities for all and her influence grew in an ever-widening circle, like ripples on the still surface of a pool.

Her work was known nationally and internationally. In 1930 Miss Gray was invited to Newfoundland to show the education department there how to teach adults according to her methods.

The year of 1931 was an important year for Dr. Wil Lou Gray. It marked the first time that the Opportunity Schools became co-educational at then Clemson College. This brought about a major study on the learning ability of adults. The study was funded through a \$10,000 grant by the Carnegie Foundation. The research was conducted by Dr. William S. Gray, Professor of Education at the University of Chicago and Dr. J. Warren Tilton, Assistant Professor of Educational Psychology, at Yale University. This was also a time when two Opportunity Schools existed by races rather than by sex. The white pupils attended Clemson Opportunity School while the blacks attended the Seneca Opportunity School at the old Seneca Junior College formerly the Seneca Institute in Seneca. The basic findings of the 1931 study concluded that adults of limited education learn 3-9 times faster than children and that both races learn about equally when favorable learning conditions exist.⁴



1931 Seneca Opportunity School Pupils

In 1933 she was called to Washington, D.C. to confer with the Secretary of Interior and the Bureau of Education in regard to emergency relief education. The South Carolina educator was chairman of education for the South Carolina Federation Women's Clubs and an ex-officer of the National Education Association.

She would insist that her pupils learn to sign their name and incorporate her "Write Your Name Campaign" into her teachings. She required all her students, black and white, to know how to write their name before traveling to the State House during a pilgrimage and/or tour. The purpose was to sign the official guest book at the State House and other points of interest.



1935 State House Pilgrimage for Negro Adult School Students.

Wil Lou Gray believed strongly in the dignity of labor and it was her enthusiasm for her work and her great desire to be of service to those who needed her most that have brought her the success she enjoyed. Wil Lou Gray did not derive pleasure from her personal achievements, rather, her happiness was a by-product of helping others. From the time she first entered upon her career in a one teacher county school those qualities which distinguished her as a great humanitarian and as an educator of note asserted themselves. She used to take her pupils out into the cotton fields to pick cotton in her early days, using the money which they earned to buy books. She later divided her time between office and field service, making trips to counties throughout the state and giving talks before state associations and various civic and professional clubs in the interest of adult education. Wil Lou Gray campaigned hard for a compulsory school attendance law for students up through sixteen years of age and she worked tirelessly to get the school attendance law passed for South Carolina.

In 1937 Miss Gray was awarded the Algernon-Sidney Sullivan Award by the University of South Carolina, given to one citizen each year because of their love for their fellow man, and unselfish service to mankind. She was vice-president of the American Association for Adult Education for 1941-1942, a trustee of Columbia College, in Columbia, South Carolina and in 1940-1941 she served as chairman of the Southeastern Regional Conference of Adult Education.



1940's State House Pilgrimage for White Adult School Students.

Such organizations as the American Legion, State Federation of Women's Clubs, churches, textile executives and private citizens were generous in contributing scholarships to worthy pupils who are unable to raise the sum of twenty dollars, which included all expenses during the early years of the school. But whenever possible, Miss Gray inspired individuals to help themselves. Many of her pupils returned year after year until they completed all of the available courses and quite a few subsequently entered college or technical school.

At the close of World War II, Dr. Gray worked to secure the vacated Army Air Base in West Columbia, SC for a permanent home for her beloved Opportunity School. This property was made famous by the late Lt. Colonel James H. Doolittle, the famous World War II hero who led the surprise air raid attack on Japan, April 18, 1942. The Army Air Base was home to medium B-25 bombers. "The Doolittle Raiders" were the most famous group that trained at this facility. The actual Opportunity School property was the hospital area of the Columbia Army Air Base. Through the efforts of then Governor Strom Thurmond and the War Assets Administration in Washington, D.C., the Opportunity School now had



1943 Columbia Army Air Base.

a permanent home. The property was not final until 1957, when Wil Lou Gray was successful in having the Federal Government make a quick claim deed to the State of South Carolina for a year round Opportunity School, thus completing her dream. The property consisted of 998 acres and has resulting in great use by the State of South Carolina. Today this property is home to a Technical College, the Opportunity School, State Surplus Property, a high school, Vocational Rehabilitation Offices, the Columbia Metropolitan Airport, South Carolina Aeronautics Commission, FFA, and the Columbia Metropolitan Airport Industrial Park.

During her long and fruitful life, Wil Lou Gray received awards for her many accomplishments. In 1950 the State American Legion gave her a plaque for Distinguished Public Service and South Carolina State University gave her an Award for Service to the Black Race. She received honorary doctorate degrees from Columbia College, Clemson University and Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC. Her desire to educate everyone led to the establishment of the education system within the South Carolina Department of Corrections. During a joint session of The South Carolina General Assembly in 1957 she received a citation upon retirement. Actor Bob Hope recognized Dr. Gray as the "National Woman of the Year" on his television show in 1959. In 1974 she was inducted into the South Carolina Hall of Fame and the Columbia Rotary Club presented her with the Paul Harris Fellow Award in 1980, the first time a woman had received this honor. After her retirement from the education profession, Wil Lou Gray channeled her energies toward the senior citizen movement, creating the Federation of Older Americans. The work with senior citizens led to the establishment of the South Carolina Commission on Aging. Through this effort her work led to the creation of the popular "Senior Citizen Day" at the South Carolina State Fair. Under then Governor Richard W. Riley, Jr., Dr. Gray's portrait was placed in the South Carolina State House on May 14, 1986. She became only the third woman in the history of South Carolina so honored. She died on March 10, 1984, in Columbia, South Carolina at the age of 100. Her life's work spanned for over 50 years where her accomplishments brought her recognition as a national figure in the field of adult education.

¹ Ms. Wil Lou Gray, Adult Leadership, AEA/USA (AAACE), Sept., 1975, Volume 24, Number 1, Pages 12-14.

² Dr. William Savage, Video (Interview with Ms. Wil Lou Gray), Museum of Education at USC, Columbia, SC, Feb. 11, 1975.

³ Ms. Wil Lou Gray, Elementary Studies in Civics, The State Company, USA, Columbia, SC, 1927.

⁴ William S. Gray, Wil Lou Gray, and J. W. Tilton, The Opportunity Schools of South Carolina, An Experimental Study, American Association for Adult Education (AAACE), New York, 1932.



Artist Michael Del Priore with State House portrait of Wil Lou Gray 1986.

HISTORY OF THE OPPORTUNITY SCHOOLS

Wil Lou Gray started her campaign to reduce illiteracy through a series of night schools in South Carolina. She received this inspiration from her colleague, Cora Wilson Stewart, and her book, *Moonlight Schools, For The Emancipation of Adult Illiterates*.^{1,2} Cora Wilson Stewart, was to Kentucky what Wil Lou Gray was to South Carolina. Cora Wilson Stewart established the Moonlight Schools to help educate the many illiterate adults in the Appalachian Mountain region of Kentucky. She had a passion to teach the illiterate adults by using the schoolhouses that sat idle at night. So she opened the schools in the evening hours after their work was done. Classes were held three to four nights each month only on nights of the full moon. This allowed safe travel over the treacherous mountain roads. Her work and schoolhouse is now at Morehead State University, Morehead, Kentucky. Cora Stewart's work to reach the illiterate mountain people in Kentucky was one of the first programs in the nation to reduce adult illiteracy. The first Opportunity School in South Carolina was organized under the direction of the State Department of Education as an experiment in adult education. Wil Lou Gray designed her beloved Opportunity Schools as a means to help the adult learner become literate.

So far as it is known, South Carolina's first Opportunity School was the first vacation boarding school for girls over 14 and women on elementary level. The school opened August 2, 1921, at the Tamassee DAR (Daughters of American Revolution) School, Tamassee, South Carolina. This school is located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the northwest corner of South Carolina. Miss Wil Lou Gray was able to influence the Tamassee DAR School to loan its facilities for the first Opportunity School. As the story goes Tamassee was opened on faith and a barrel of flour. The flour was contributed to the cause for food by her brother Dial, a flour salesman. The conditions for entrance were novel in that no pupil could attend who was younger than 14, who could not attend public school or who had gone further than the fifth grade. Seventeen girls registered as boarders while nineteen men registered for night classes. Mrs. Mary Crowe of Greenwood was the first person to register for classes for South Carolina's Opportunity Schools. The curriculum at that time included the basic tools of learning, supplemented by emphasis on health habits, good manners, civics, domestic science, arts and crafts. The faculty consisted of one teacher paid one hundred dollars, and three volunteers with several visiting teachers from Winthrop College, Rock Hill, SC and the community.



1921 Tamassee Opportunity School.



How Tamassee Opportunity School looks today.



Mrs. Mary Crowe

This simple experiment proved so successful that plans were made for a larger facility in cooperation with the churches. On November 1, 1921, Wil Lou Gray met in Lancaster, SC with the Board of Education of the Upper South Carolina Methodist Conference and outlined a plan whereby the State could cooperate in teaching men and women to read and write. The plan called for one or two colleges to open during the month of August for the purpose of teaching the three R's, supplemented by courses in citizenship and, for the women, courses in domestic arts.

Dr. Gray planned for each denomination to provide \$300 for incidental expenses. It was soon realized that these students could pay very little, therefore, friends of adult education rallied to the need by supplying scholarship aid.

Minutes from the Methodist Church reflect the work and support Wil Lou Gray received to help combat illiteracy in South Carolina. A report to the Board of Education in 1921, from of the Upper South Carolina Methodist Conference, had this to say about the part the Methodist played in the beginnings of the Opportunity School. Your Board heard with pleasure Miss Wil Lou Gray who is employed by the State Board of Education and who is charged especially with the work for the 88,724 illiterates in South Carolina. She outlined a plan by which our Church can cooperate in this great undertaking of removing the blot of illit-

eracy from our fair State by conducting a month's school for these unfortunates at one of our colleges during the summer months. The State offers to furnish and pay the salaries of the teachers necessary if we will provide a place for the school and a small sum for incidental expenses. \$300.00 was said sufficient for this.

Your Board heartily recommends cooperation in this movement and asks that \$300.00 be appropriated therefor. It further recommends that the preachers cooperate in the work by helping to secure prospective students, and that J. C. Roper and R.F. Morris be appointed as a committee to plan for the same.³

In 1922 a second report given to the Board of Education, from the Upper South Carolina Methodist Conference had additional remarks to say about the Opportunity School. At the last session of the Annual Conference, your Board of Education passed resolutions endorsing the splendid work being done by Miss Wil Lou Gray, under the employ of the State Board of Education, in behalf of the white illiterates of South Carolina, and pledged its heartiest support to her in the project to hold, during the past summer, an Opportunity School, for young women who had suffered such educational neglect. To this end an assessment of \$300.00, with which to meet the incidental expenses of such a school, was asked for by the Board and ordered by the Conference.

State Superintendent of Education, Honorable John E. Swearingen, at once heartily approved of the plan, and kindly consented to pay the salary of the teacher need for the school out of a fund at his disposal for the promotion of education among illiterates. He encouraged the undertaking and aided the movement in every way possible. Dr. John O. Wilson gladly opened the doors of Lander College for such service in behalf of the womanhood of our State.⁴

The South Carolina Baptist Convention also supported Wil Lou Gray's effort to fight illiteracy. The Board of Education of the South Carolina Baptist Convention provided their academy at Gross for the men in 1922. The academy at Gross, as called by Wil Lou Gray, was actually "Spartan Academy" located in Lyman, South Carolina. It was situated on land owned by Augustus Belton Groce, a large land owner from whose land the Town of Lyman, South Carolina in Spartanburg County became incorporated. Spartan Academy burned in the spring of 1922, too late to secure another home for the men that year.

Spartan Academy was founded in 1906 by the Spartanburg Baptist Association as a high school, with the particular aim of training for Christian Service. Later, it was "fostered and owned" by the Spartan, North Spartanburg, Broad River, and Union County Baptist Associations. The Home Mission Board endorsed and helped the academy as did the South Carolina Baptist Convention through its Education Commission.⁵

The Institution changed from a high school to Spartan Academy in 1912, which

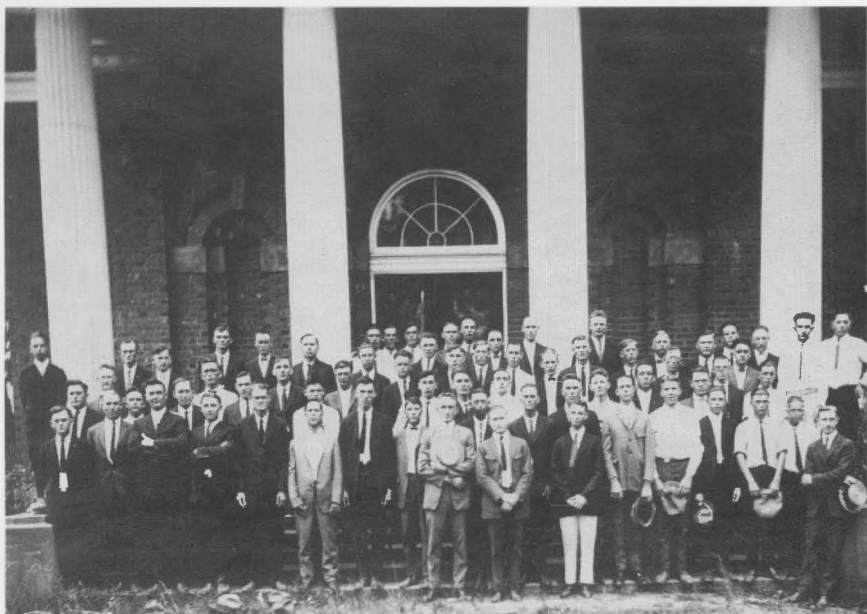
it remained until 1922. By that year it had ceased to be coeducational and was known as a fitting school for Furman University. The academy was located in Landrum until 1915, when it moved to the property owned by A. B. Groce at Lyman, SC. When Spartan Academy located at Lyman, the town had not yet incorporated. The school was closed in 1923 and the site and buildings sold. A considerable influence for good was exerted by Spartan Academy through teaching its approximately fifteen hundred students.

Augustus Belton Groce, a native of Greenville, operated a community general merchandise store beside the Southern Railway tracks going through the property near what is now Lyman. The store provided supplies for local farmers and served as a rest area for travelers between Spartanburg and Greenville. It soon became known as Groce Stop.

The community grew slowly and changed little until Pacific Mills, a giant textile firm from Boston, Massachusetts, purchased 750 acres from A. B. Groce in the early 1920's. With an investment of \$6 million for land, physical plant, machinery and housing for employees, the company decided to move into the South in a big way.

The name Lyman was applied to the community by Pacific Mills after the land was purchased and construction on the plant and homes began. The name was given in memory of Arthur T. Lyman, president of Pacific Mills from 1900 to 1915.⁶

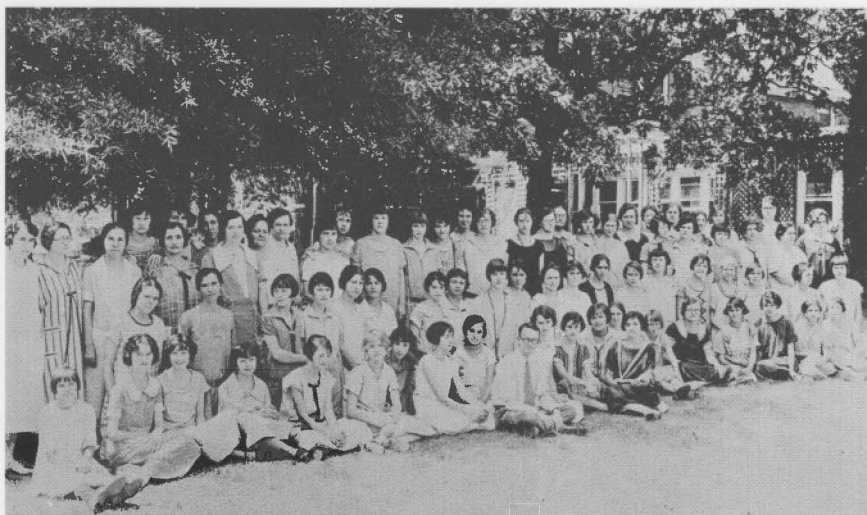
In 1922, with the aid of the Board of Education of the Upper South Carolina Methodist Conference, Lander College, Greenwood, South Carolina, then owned and operated by the Methodist Church, was secured for the girls. Lander College, became the first college in the country to open its doors, in cooperation with the State Department of Education, to girls and women for the purpose of teaching the mastery of the tool subjects, supplemented by providing every experience possible which would widen their environments and awaken ambitions. Eighty-nine pupils attended in 1922, their ages ranging from 14 to 51. The number of counties swelled from four in 1921 to thirteen in 1922. The cost was reduced to a minimum by students doing most of the work. A mill executive, James P. Gossett of Gossett Mills in Anderson, sent 20 girls to this session, four from each of his five mills. He was so pleased with their progress that the following year he sent a like number of men to Erskine College and followed this pattern until the depression years came. The Opportunity School for women remained at Lander College through 1924. Erskine College in Due West, South Carolina opened its doors to the men in 1923 and served the men until 1930. The first Opportunity School for men saw 72 pupils enroll. The organization was similar to that at Lander College, where learning was always based on the everyday needs of good citizenship. In 1924, due to a remodeling program at Lander College, another home had to be found. Anderson College, Anderson, SC, supported by the South



1923 Erskine Opportunity School, First Opportunity School for Men.



1928 Erskine Opportunity School



1926 Anderson Opportunity School



1929 Erskine Opportunity School

Carolina Baptist Convention, offered its facilities for the years 1925, 1926, and 1927. A remodeling program again made it necessary to move from here too. In the 1928, 1929, and 1930 sessions, the girls' school met at the Women's College in Due West. These institutions of higher learning in Due West, SC were owned and financially supported by the Associated Reform Presbyterian Church. The Women's College at Due West merged with Erskine College during the late 1920's. Erskine Opportunity Schools attracted such outstanding faculty as the



1929 Women's College Opportunity School

future Adult Education Director for South Carolina, Margaret Tolbert; Miss Martha Franks, the Baptist Missionary; future United States Senator and agriculture teacher J. Strom Thurmond; and future Erskine College President J. M. Lesesne. Another teacher during this time was Jesse Agnew, Principal of Due West High School and later the Director of the South Carolina Opportunity School in 1957-1958.

It was during the 1931 summer session that Wil Lou Gray, with the support of a \$10,000 grant from the Carnegie Foundation, conducted a study on the Learning Ability of Adults. Dr. William S. Gray, Professor of Education, University of Chicago, and Dr. J. Warren Tilton, Professor of Educational Psychology at Yale



1931 Clemson Opportunity School, First Co-Educational Class

University, directed the study. Standardized tests were given in lieu of the ones locally constructed. At the close of this session the Opportunity School for the first time presented seventh grade certificates to 52 students.⁷

Also in 1931, a similar study was made with the Negroes of South Carolina. In fact there were two Opportunity Schools that year, one for the white population and one for the Negro population. Seneca Junior College in Seneca, South Carolina was the site for the Seneca Opportunity School. Seneca Junior College was the old Seneca Institute established in 1899. Both schools were founded by the Sunday School Convention and the Seneca River Baptist Association. At the time of its founding there were only two black high school graduates in Seneca. And the nearest black college was in Atlanta, Georgia. The purpose was to provide academic training, first for preparatory school then later for college. Dr. Gray's findings from her 1931 study concluded that adults learn faster than children, a little difference between learning ability of whites and Negroes, and the more schooling one has the easier it is to learn. Total enrollment for the eleven sessions were 1,672 pupils.

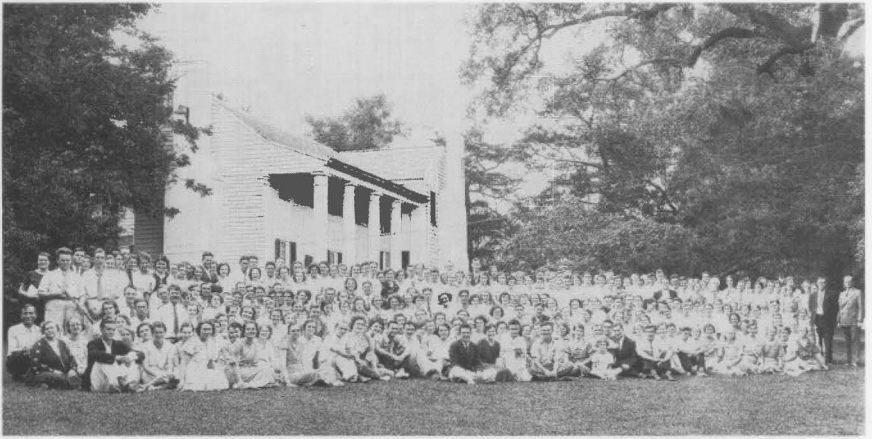


Bruce Bell 1945

1931 Seneca Opportunity School

The Opportunity School continued its one month session at Clemson College, Clemson, SC from 1931 to 1942 at which time the Opportunity School had to be moved because of the conditions brought about by World War II.

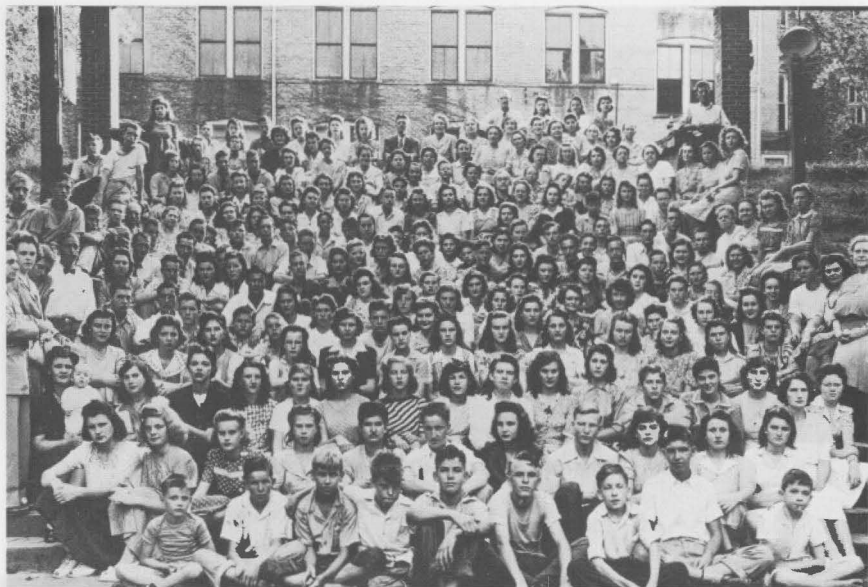
Lander College again offered the school a home for the sessions in 1943 and 1944. Due to remodeling it was necessary to find a new location, and Columbia College opened its doors in 1945. Again, like all other colleges that hosted the Opportunity School, except Clemson, Columbia College was church related, owned by the Methodist.



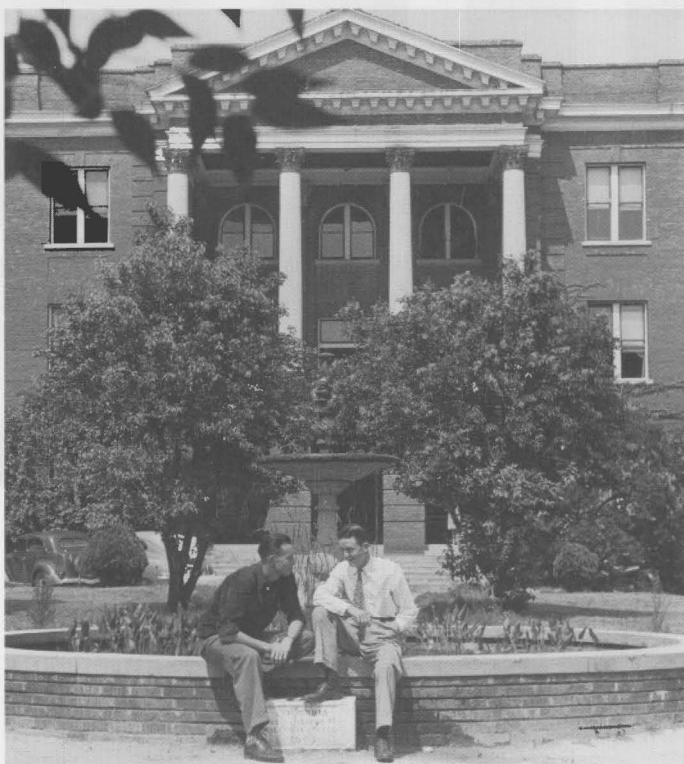
1938 Clemson Opportunity School, Fort Hill, SC



1940 Clemson Opportunity School



1944 Lander Opportunity School



1945 Columbia Opportunity School

These one month terms held through the courtesy of various colleges, demonstrated the need for a permanent year round school. Immediate impetus was given to find a permanent home after World War II. Many veterans were returning and the G. I. Bill of Rights offered educational training to these citizens. Figures revealed by the Selective Service Studies after World War II demonstrated many South Carolinians examined for the draft were rejected because of educational reasons. Having no boarding institution in South Carolina emphasizing general education for adults on the elementary or secondary levels, the state recognized the need for a permanent home. The General Assembly granted the request of the State Department of Education for an appropriation of \$65,000 to be used for a year round Opportunity School. Through efforts led by Dr. Gray, 998 acres and some 200 buildings of the de-activated Columbia Army Air Base were acquired by a quit claim deed through the War Assets Administration for the joint use of the Opportunity School and Trade School on a ten year probationary basis. The Trade School concept was a forerunner to the Technical Education System in South Carolina. The school's first session in this permanent home opened January 2, 1947. Today the airport section of the old Columbia Army Air Base serves as the Columbia Metropolitan Airport.

Students and staff worked closely together in a pioneer spirit during the early years in making the barrack type buildings into an attractive facility. The educational program was developed and expanded to accommodate commuting day and evening students in addition to the boarding students. Special attention was given to the needs of veterans and their families. Programs were designed to teach practical arts in everyday living, as well as academics.

Fully satisfied with its utilization, the Federal Government released the property to the South Carolina Budget and Control Board in 1956. In a reallocation of the property several years later, the Budget and Control Board of South Carolina State Government delineated 107 acres as the Opportunity School campus.

By a South Carolina State Legislative act in 1957, the South Carolina Opportunity School was declared a body politic and placed under the management and control of a Board of Trustees. Mr. Jesse Agnew followed Dr. Gray upon her retirement and became Director in 1957.

In the late 1960's modern facilities replaced the temporary military buildings which served the Opportunity School for over twenty years. Revising and expanding its programs to meet changing needs, in a college-like atmosphere, the Opportunity School continues its mission of teaching out of school youth and adults. Through the years the Opportunity has worked in conjunction with under-educated veterans returning from service, clients from Vocational Rehabilitation, CETA/Job Corps, Department of Social Services, dropouts, truants from Juvenile Justice, the National Guard of South Carolina and the school systems in South Carolina. The self paced style study, long a tradition at the Opportunity School,

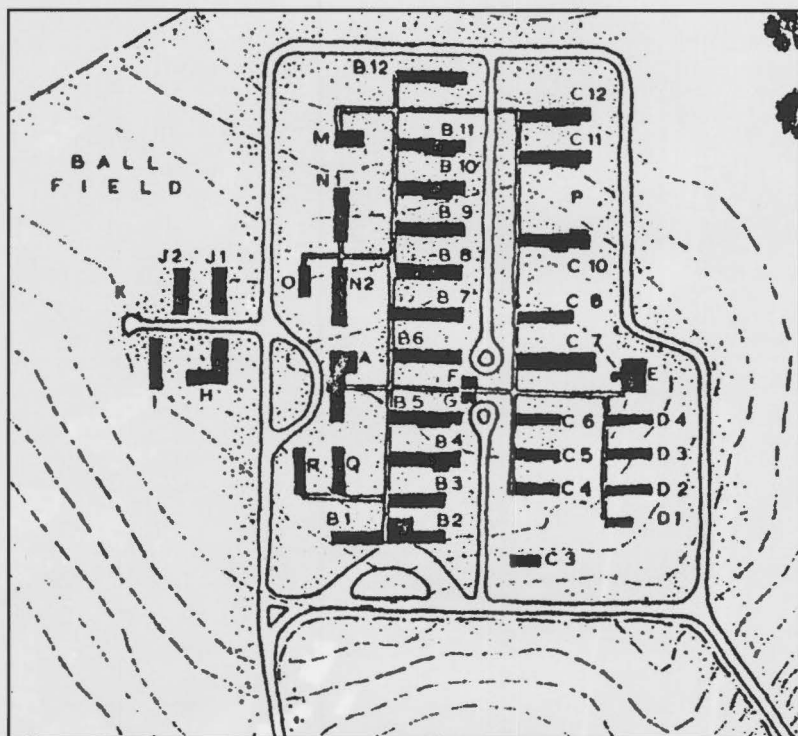


1943 Future Opportunity School Campus

LEGEND 1947-1968

OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL CAMPUS

A	ADMINISTRATION	C-10	INFIRMARY
B-1	RESIDENCE	C-11	RECREATION HALL
B-2	DIAGNOSTIC CENTER	C-12	TWO RESIDENCES
	WATER POLLUTION CENTER	D-1	WAREHOUSE
B-3	STAFF APARTMENTS	D-2	WAREHOUSE
B-4	GIRLS' DORMITORY	D-3	WAREHOUSE
B-5	CLASSROOMS	D-4	WAREHOUSE
B-6	CLASSROOMS	E	BOILER ROOM
B-7	CLASSROOMS	F	CANTEEN
B-8	LIBRARY	G	TV ROOM
B-9	GIRLS' DORMITORY	H	RESIDENCE
B-10	GIRLS' DORMITORY	I	CERAMICS AND ART
B-11	BOYS' DORMITORY	J-1	WEST DORMITORY (A)
B-12	BOYS' DORMITORY & RESIDENCE	J-2	BUILDING CONDEMNED
C-3	RESIDENCE	K	PICNIC AREA
C-4	WAREHOUSE	M	CHAPEL & RED CROSS BUILDING
C-5	WAREHOUSE	N-1-2	MEN'S DORMITORIES
C-6	WAREHOUSE	O	RESIDENCE
C-7	DINING-ROOM & KITCHEN	P	TENNIS COURTS
C-8	SHOP	Q	SCIENCE BUILDING
		R	MISCELLANEOUS STORAGE





1947 New Permanent Campus

is still a major factor in the academic development of the student. Today the Opportunity School continues to reach the out of school age teenager or young adult who has not completed high school, while meeting the educational needs of the state. Today, the educational setting at the Opportunity School serves as a leader in alternative education.



Today's Modern Campus

¹ Ms. Wil Lou Gray, Adult Leadership, AEA/USA (AAACE), Sept., 1975, Volume 24, Number 1, Pages 12-14.

² Dr. William Savage, Video (Interview with Ms. Wil Lou Gray), Museum of Education at USC, Columbia, SC, Feb. 11, 1975.

³ Minutes of the Upper South Carolina Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, 1921, Page 35, Wofford College, Spartanburg, SC.

⁴ Minutes of the Upper South Carolina Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, 1922, Page 47, Wofford College, Spartanburg, SC.

⁵ Joe M. King, A History of South Carolina Baptist, Columbia, SC, General Board of the South Carolina Baptist Convention 1964, Page 262.

⁶ Michael Leonard, Our Heritage, A Community History of Spartanburg, SC, Spartanburg Herald and Journal and Board and White Publishers, 1896 and 1983, Page 154.

⁷ William S. Gray, Wil Lou Gray, and J. W. Tilton, The Opportunity Schools of South Carolina, An Experimental Study, American Association for Adult Education (AAACE), New York, NY, 1932.

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